

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of November 16, 2007 issued with respect to the present application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claims 1, 19 and 38 are amended to specify that the heater element is configured so that the bubble nucleation section and the rest of the heater element are co-planar and remain co-planar when the heater element is heated. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 46, line 14-page 47, line 9 and Figs. 73 and 74 of the present application; and

dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10-18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 29-37, 39-44 and 46-54 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, and claims 2-6, 8, 10-18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 29-37, 39-44 and 46-54 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by previously cited Campbell in view of newly cited Hawkins et al. (US 4,935,752) and/or previously cited Silverbrook, Kubby and De Moor, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 19 and 38 have been amended to specify that the heater element is configured so that the bubble nucleation section and the rest of the heater element are co-planar and remain co-planar when the heater element is heated. In this way, integrity of the heater element is assured (see page 46, line 14-page 47, line 9 and Figs. 73 and 74 of the present application).

On the other hand, Hawkins (which is cited by the Examiner as purportedly disclosing a bubble nucleation section like that of the claimed invention) specifically teaches that the different sections of the resistive material 31 are non-planar so as to isolate the different sections from bubble generation (see col. 5, line 47-col. 6, line 7 and Fig. 4A).

Thus, in any combination of Hawkins and Campbell, Silverbrook, Kubby and De Moor one of ordinary skill in the art would only be motivated to provide a heater element having non-planar sections as is specifically taught by Hawkins, and therefore the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by any of these combination.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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